

PROVIDING A FLEXIBLE PROTECTION MODEL IN A COMPUTER
SYSTEM BY DECOUPLING PROTECTION FROM COMPUTER
PRIVILEGE LEVEL

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

[0100] Methods and systems for providing a flexible protection model in a computer system by decoupling protection from privilege are described. Information describing a relationship between the two or more domains that define types of protection and portions of code is received. The portions of code with the multiple domains that provide fine granularities of protection can be executed in the same privilege level. The relationship is not required to be linear. In addition, the overhead associated with crossing protection domains is relatively low with respect to traditional operating system context switching overhead.